



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

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Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Head of School: Ms Hasina Khan

26th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a good week. It feels like the summer is over, and the cooler mornings and shorter days are a reminder that autumn is now well and truly here.

Y6 secondary school visits

I know many Year 6 parents and children are currently visiting secondary schools, and I am in that camp this year too. It's a big decision, and I'm very happy to talk to any Year 6 parents to support you through the process. I suppose we can support each other. Please let me or the school office know if you need any support completing the e-admission form. The deadline for the application is 31st October- please make sure forms are submitted before the deadline.

Harvest

We are looking forward to our Harvest Service on Thursday, 2nd October at Christ Church. If you are able, please donate. Your donations will go to people in our local community. Parents are very welcome to join the service. Children in Years 1 to 6 will be attending the service, while the Reception class will have a smaller service in their classroom. If you plan to take your children home after the service, please let the school know.

Punctuality

The Importance of Arriving on Time

We are still noticing a number of children arriving at school after the morning bell. Even being just 5–10 minutes late each day quickly adds up—over the course of a week, this can mean almost an hour of learning is lost. That is valuable time your child could be spending on key skills, building confidence, and starting the day positively with their friends.

It is really important that we work together to help children develop good habits from a young age. Arriving on time every day ensures they don't miss important instructions, introductions to lessons, or opportunities to take part in early morning activities that set them up for success.

Please support us by making sure your child is in school and ready to learn before the bell. Together, we can give every child the best possible start to their day and their education.





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National Poetry Day – 1st October

Every year, on the 1st of October, schools across the country celebrate National Poetry Day. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the joy of poetry with children and help them discover the magic of words.

Poetry is important because it helps children to:

- **Develop a love of language** – poems play with rhythm, rhyme, and sound, making words exciting and memorable.
- **Build confidence** – learning and performing a poem allows children to use their voice, practise speaking clearly, and express themselves.
- **Strengthen memory and creativity** – poems encourage imagination and help children remember language patterns.
- **Connect with feelings and culture** – poetry often captures emotions and traditions in a way that children can relate to and enjoy.

This year, our children will take part in some exciting online poetry workshops. To make the celebration even more special, we would love for you to share a favourite poem from your own childhood with your child—one that you remember fondly. If you speak another language, please do read the poem in that language, as it is a wonderful way for children to celebrate different cultures and the richness of language.

Throughout the week, children will also have the opportunity to recite their chosen poem to the class, helping them to build confidence and enjoy performing in front of others.

Key dates for next week

Monday 29th September - Phonics Forum for REC parents - 9am

Thursday 2nd October - Harvest Festival at Christ Church Y1 - Y6 - 2pm

Friday 3rd October - Y2 Coffee Morning - 9am

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing you on Monday morning - 8.45am!

With thanks,

Ms H Khan

Head of School

